



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

October 08, 2021

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough:

As you are aware, the COVID pandemic has presented exceedingly difficult challenges over the last two years, including critical entities within our Government at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention a matter of utmost importance concerning Gigunda Group, LLC., a great New Hampshire company that has procured millions of dollars worth of PPE and testing supplies for the VA at their direct request. Despite thousands of pieces of correspondence between the VA and Gigunda and previous successful deals, the VA is now denying a request that was made to Gigunda to procure 500 million nitrile gloves for the VA.

Securing critical, life-saving supplies in a timely manner was a matter of life or death. When the VA asked if the State of New Hampshire would be willing to partner to assist the VA and supply its Veterans with critical PPE needs, the state said yes and stepped up. Under my direction we moved forward – often working around the clock – in good faith to help the VA secure PPE because it was the right thing to do. Not only did the State deliver countless international shipments of PPE, we also, upon the request of the VA, provided you with our network of NH private sector companies that could help fulfill other needs of the VA.

Gigunda was one of these companies. They are a world-class company specializing in disaster relief and problem solving, headquartered right here in New Hampshire at Pease Air Base, and operate out of a 45,000 sq. ft. hangar & cross-dock air cargo loading facility with 24-hr international customs clearances and capacity to simultaneously off-load multiple 747s.

With little more than a direct request, the VA first tasked Gigunda in April of 2020 with the intent to locate, procure and ultimately fund up-front (at Gigunda's sole monetary risk) \$7.4 million worth of nasal swabs. Not only did Gigunda deliver the nasal swabs when no one else could, but they did so ahead of schedule and at a cost far less than the market was providing. As expected, Gigunda delivered, and the VA, through NH, made good on their promise to reimburse Gigunda.

Here's the issue at concern: In October, 2020, The Secretary of the VA's office reached out personally to Gigunda with the emergency request for Gigunda to locate, procure and ultimately provide funding for 500 million nitrile gloves on behalf of the VA. At that time, locating 10 million or 20 million nitrile gloves was a big deal. Gigunda was tasked with searching the globe to locate a supplier that could provide 500 million gloves and with capability to provide as many as 2-5 billion over time.

Gigunda dropped everything they were doing to deliver on this request – and they did. And yet, despite 4,000+ pieces of correspondence, I have learned that the VA's procurement arm now somehow claims no such request was made. This is unacceptable.

Over 20 million nitrile gloves have been sitting in Gigunda's TSA secure facility since May, and yet the VA has chosen to ignore and deny the existence of this successful partnership.

I am writing today to firmly request that the VA follow through on their promise to purchase these gloves, end this breach of their request, and contact Gigunda within seven days to make good on their commitment.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor